Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 22, 2005

An act to amend Section 4369.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to compulsive gambling.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1039, as introduced, Bowen. Compulsive gambling.

Existing law establishes the office of compulsive gambling within the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs for the purpose of developing a comprehensive program for problem and pathological gamblers.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1   SECTION 1. Section 4369.2 of the Welfare and Institutions
2   Code is amended to read:
3   4369.2. (a) The office shall develop a problem gambling
4   prevention program, which shall be the first priority for funding
5   appropriated to this office. The prevention program shall be
6   based upon the allocation priorities established by the department
7   and subject to funding being appropriated for the purpose of this
8   subdivision, and shall consist of all of the following:
9   (1) A toll-free telephone service for immediate crisis
10 management and containment with subsequent referral of
11 problem and pathological gamblers to health providers who can
12 provide treatment for gambling related problems and to self-help
13 groups.

1   (2) Public awareness campaigns that focus on prevention and
2 education among the general public, including, ~~for example~~ *but*
3 *not limited to*, dissemination of youth oriented preventive
4 literature, educational experiences, and public service
5 announcements in the media.
6   (3) Empirically driven research programs focusing on
7 epidemiology/prevalence, etiology/causation, and best practices
8 in prevention and treatment.
9   (4) Training of health care professionals and educators, and
10 training for law enforcement agencies and nonprofit
11 organizations in the identification of problem gambling behavior
12 and knowledge of referral services and treatment programs.
13   (5) Training of gambling industry personnel in identifying
14 customers at risk for problem and pathological gambling and
15 knowledge of referral and treatment services.
16   (b) The office shall develop a program to support treatment
17 services for California residents with problem and pathological
18 gambling issues. The program shall be based upon the allocation
19 priorities established by the department and subject to funding
20 being appropriated for the purposes of this subdivision. These
21 priorities shall also be based on the best available existing state
22 programs as well as on continuing research into best practices
23 and on the needs of California. The treatment program shall
24 consist of all of the following components:
25   (1) Treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers
26 and directly involved family members. These treatment services
27 will be created through partnerships with established health
28 facilities that can provide treatment for gambling related
29 problems, substance abuse facilities, and providers. State funded
30 treatment may include, but is not limited to, the following:
31 self-administered, home-based educational programs; outpatient
32 treatment; residential treatment; and inpatient treatment when
33 medically necessary.
34   (2) A funding allocation methodology that ensures treatment
35 services are delivered efficiently and effectively to areas of the
36 state most in need.
37   (3) Appropriate review and monitoring of treatment programs
38 by the director of the office or a designated institution, including
39 grant oversight and monitoring, standards for treatment, and
40 outcome monitoring.

1 (4) Treatment efforts shall provide services that are relevant to
2 the needs of a diverse multicultural population with attention to
3 groups with unique needs, including female gamblers,
4 underserved ethnic groups, the elderly, and the physically
5 challenged.
6 (c) The office shall make information available as requested
7 by the Governor and the Legislature with respect to the
8 comprehensive program.

O